



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Senate votes to ban Internet hunting

LANSING – The Michigan Senate on Wednesday voted to ban the practice of computer-assisted remote hunting in Michigan, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of Senate Bill 373.

“This legislation will help to protect the integrity of our sport from such a senseless activity,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “Those who want to hunt on the Internet should stick to videogames and leave the real game to real hunters.”

The three-bill package would make it illegal for an individual to hunt using a computer to remotely control a firearm or crossbow or to operate a facility offering such an opportunity.

“Internet hunting does a disservice to Michigan sportsmen,” said Rep. Glenn Steil, R-Cascade Township, sponsor of House Bill 4465. “These bills will help to end this ridiculous practice.”

The legislation also establishes penalties for violators of the proposed legislation. First-time offenders would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 93 days, a fine of up to \$500, or both. Subsequent violations would be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to one year, a maximum fine of \$1,000, or both.

“There is no ‘sport’ to watching a video monitor and clicking a mouse,” said Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, sponsor of Senate Bill 620. “The abhorrent practice of Internet hunting needs to be banned, and I am proud to work with my colleagues to ensure that happens.”

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